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Senate PROCEEDING UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise, too, to applaud the leadership given to us in the last several days by Senator Daschle and Senator Lott.

Thirty years ago, I did not serve in this body; I served as a naval flight officer on the other side of the world, in a war that was not popular in this country. Those of us who served took our cues from those who served in this body with respect to the strength and support for our efforts from the American people and from our elected officials. The signals we received were not always encouraging ones.

It is important today that those who are serving our country on the other side of the world in this war, flying in F-14s, helicopters, dropping food from C-17s, dropping munitions from B-52s and B-1s, special forces at work, the sailors and airmen and soldiers—it is important that we send to them, not just by our words but by our deeds today, a very clear message: There is a time for fear and there is a time for resolve. This is a time for resolve. Our resolve is being tested, and it is critically important that we meet that test. And we will.

We are endeavoring to strike a balance, whether it is in Senator Daschle's office, Senate office buildings, the Capitol, or the House office buildings, to make sure we are being vigilant and careful and that we are mindful of their health and welfare. And we are. At the same time, let's remember we

have a lot of work to do—not next year or the year after that; we have a lot of work to do this year. We have appropriations bills to pass to meet the needs of our Nation. We have compromises to hammer out on terrorism legislation, airport security, and rail security. We have legislation that is in conference on education, raising the achievement level of our students, and making sure there is a Patients' Bill of Rights that is fair to everybody in this country. We need to hammer out those compromises.

We need an energy policy. We haven't had one in my adult life and, frankly, we need one now more than ever. We have plenty to do. The idea that some might suggest it is time for us to take leave from this place and go back to our States for a while is just absolutely the wrong approach to take. We need to stay here and stay on the job.

There are some differences between the facts and the fiction being spread about what is happening on Capitol Hill. Others have spoken to it, and I want to mention it as well. Secretary Thompson told me this morning that we received lab test results of the substance opened up in the mail in Senator Daschle's office, and we got those results about 3 o'clock this morning. The bad news is that it is anthrax.

The idea that somehow this is weapons grade is not correct. That is just not true. This is a substance that is susceptible to penicillin. This is a substance that is

susceptible to Ciprofloxacin, just as other anthrax materials are susceptible. It can be treated.

Let's take a worst case scenario. There have been reports that the ventilation system of the Hart Building is somehow contaminated with anthrax. That is just not so. Let's assume for a moment it is. Let's assume for a moment that everyone who works there, including Senators, has been exposed to anthrax, which is not true either. As it turns out, maybe 20 or 30 people have been exposed--not infected but exposed.

If we had all been exposed and if, indeed, the ventilation system was chock full of anthrax--and it is not--what do we do about it? We simply take the antibiotics that kill the bacteria. That is what we do.

Keep in mind, anthrax is something for which we can be vaccinated. If we come down with an illness, we can take antibiotics that will cure it. If I contract an illness related to anthrax, it does not mean to suggest Senator Dorgan or anybody else is going to become sick. It is not

communicable. We not only need to keep this in mind in the Senate and on Capitol Hill, but the American people need to know. This is something we can contain, and this is something we can control. We have to stay calm, we have to stay cool, we have to be collected, and we are going to do that.

The rest of the country is watching us to see how we respond in this time of duress. Certainly our military men and women around the world are watching us to see how we respond in this time of duress, during this threat to our Nation's Capitol. I presume whoever is sending these materials our way is watching us as well. They must be amused by the response they see from some.

The response we need to send to the terrorists, those who would do us harm, as well as to our troops, soldiers, sailors, and airmen around the world, and the rest of the American people is that we will make sure that the people who work here are protected and are safe, but at the same time we are committed to doing and completing our Nation's business.